flaſh of the electric fluid; which flaſh, to ſupply a great extent of cloud, muſt ſometimes contain a very great quantity of that fluid.

Or ſuch a cloud, paſſing over woods of tall trees, may from the points and ſharp edges of their moiſt top leaves, receive ſilently ſome ſupply.

A cloud being by any means ſupply'd from the earth, may ſtrike into other clouds that have not been ſupply'd, or not ſo much ſupply'd; and thoſe to others, till an equilibrium is produc'd among all the clouds that are within ſtriking diſtance of each other.

The cloud thus ſupply'd, having parted with much of what it firſt receiv'd, may require and receive a freſh ſupply from the earth, or from ſome other cloud, which by the wind is brought into ſuch a ſituation as to receive it more readily from the earth.

Hence repeated, and continual ſtrokes and flaſhes till the clouds have all got nearly their natural quantity as clouds; or till they have deſcended in ſhowers, and are united again with this terraqueous globe, their original.

Thus thunder-clouds are generally in a negative ſtate of electricity compar'd with the earth, agreeable to moſt of our experiments; yet as by one experiment we found a cloud electris'd poſitively; I conjecture that, in that caſe, ſuch cloud, after having received what was, in its rare ſtate, only its *natural quantity*, became compreſs'd by the driving winds, or ſome other means, ſo that part of what it had abſorb'd was forc'd out, and form'd an electric atmoſphere around it in its denſer ſtate. Hence it was capable of communicating poſitive electricity to my rod.

To ſhow that a body in different circumſtances of dilatation and contraction is capable of receiving and retaining more or leſs of the electric fluid on its ſurface, I would relate the following experiment. I placed a clean wine glaſs on the floor, and on it a ſmall ſilver can. In the can I put about three yards of braſs chain; to one end of which I faſtened a ſilk thread, which went right up to the cieling, where it paſſed over a pulley, and came down again to my hand, that I might at pleaſure draw the chain up out of the can, extending it till within a foot of the cieling, and let it gradually ſink into the can again.——From the cieling, by another thread of fine raw ſilk, I ſuſpended a ſmall light lock of cotton, ſo as that when it hung perpendicularly, it came in contact with the ſide of the can.——Then approaching the wire of a charged vial to the can, I gave it a ſpark, which flow'd round it in an electric atmoſphere; and the lock of cotton was repelled from the ſide of the can to the diſtance of about nine or ten inches. The can would not then receive another ſpark from the wire of the vial; but as I gradually drew up the chain, the atmoſphere of the can diminiſh'd by flowing over the riſing chain, and the lock of cotton accordingly drew nearer and nearer to the can; and then, if I again brought the vial wire near the can, it wonld receive another ſpark, and the cotton fly off again to its firſt diſtance; and thus, as the chain

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